

In the claims:

Following is a complete set of claims as amended with this Response.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a subscription request at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) from a user terminal through an access point of an ~~capable of accessing the ISP using a wireless~~ access network;

assigning a subscription identifier to the user terminal at the ISP in response to the subscription request;

generating at the ISP a service certificate signed by a certificate authority and that includes the subscription identifier to identify a subscription of the user terminal with the ISP;

adding the service certificate to a certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP;

receiving the service certificate from the user terminal at the ISP ~~a service certificate signed by a certificate authority, the service certificate including the subscription identifier;~~

checking the service certificate against the ~~against a~~ certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP; and

providing from the ISP, to the user terminal, if the service certificate is valid, a session certificate to be used to access the ~~wireless~~ access network through the access point, the session certificate having a shorter validity period than the service certificate.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the service certificate comprises receiving the service certificate through the ~~from an~~ access point being used by a user terminal to access the ~~wireless~~ access network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein checking the service certificate ~~determining whether the service certificate is valid~~ comprises searching a certificate revocation list at the ISP.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the session certificate is ~~one or more session certificates are each~~ associated with a link-level session available to the user terminal.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~each~~ link-level session comprises a PPP session.
6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- receiving a digital certificate at an ~~a wireless~~ access point of an ~~a wireless~~ access network from a user terminal seeking access to the ~~wireless~~ access network, the digital certificate to be used to authenticate the user terminal;
- determining, at the access point, a type of the digital certificate;
- if the certificate is a session certificate, then determining the validity of the digital certificate by searching a certificate revocation list (CRL) at the ~~wireless~~ access point that is associated with session certificates; and
- if the certificate is a service certificate, then sending the certificate to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to determine the validity of the certificate.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein determining the type of the digital certificate comprises determining the length of the ~~[[the]]~~ digital certificate.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the validity periods of session certificates is shorter than the validity periods of service ~~session~~ certificates.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the CRL associated with session certificates is shorter than the CRL associated with service certificates.

10. (Currently Amended) A user terminal capable of communicating with an ~~a~~ wireless access network, the user terminal comprising:

a memory to store:

a service certificate issued by an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") and signed by a certificate authority, the service certificate having a first validity period, the service certificate corresponding with a subscription of the user terminal with the ISP and including a subscription identifier, the service certificate to be used by the ~~wireless~~ access network to authenticate the user terminal with the ISP; and

a session certificate issued by the ISP and signed by the certificate authority, the session certificate having a second validity period that is shorter in duration than the first validity period, the session certificate corresponding with a session subscribed to by the user terminal and to be used by the ~~wireless~~ access network to authenticate the user terminal to an ~~a~~ wireless access point of the ~~wireless~~ access network.

11. (Original) The user terminal of claim 10, wherein the session comprises a link-level session.

12. (Original) The user terminal of claim 11, wherein the link-level session comprises a PPP session.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions that, when executed by a processor of an Internet Service Provider ("ISP"), cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving a subscription request at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) from a user terminal through an access point of an ~~capable of accessing the ISP using a wireless~~ access network;

assigning a subscription identifier to the user terminal at the ISP in response to the subscription request;

generating at the ISP a service certificate signed by a certificate authority and that includes the subscription identifier to identify a subscription of the user terminal with the ISP;

adding the service certificate to a certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP;

receiving the service certificate from the user terminal at the ISP ~~a service certificate signed by a certificate authority, the service certificate including the subscription identifier;~~

checking the service certificate against the ~~against a~~ certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP; and

providing from the ISP, to the user terminal, if the service certificate is valid, a session certificate to be used to access the ~~wireless~~ access network through the access point, the session certificate having a shorter validity period than the service certificate.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein receiving the service certificate comprises receiving the service certificate through the ~~from an~~ access point being used by a user terminal to access the ~~wireless~~ access network.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein checking the service certificate ~~determining whether the service certificate is valid~~ comprises searching a certificate revocation list.

16. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the session certificate is ~~one or more session certificates are each~~ associated with a link-level session available to the user terminal.

17. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the ~~each~~ link-level session comprises a PPP session.
18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the service certificate further includes an indication of a grade of service granted to the user terminal for the subscription.
19. (New) The user terminal of claim 10, wherein the service certificate is authenticated by the ISP and the session certificate is authenticated at the access point.
20. (New) The user terminal of claim 19, wherein the service certificate is authenticated using a certificate revocation list (CRL) maintained by the ISP and the session certificate is authenticated using a CRL maintained by the access point.